



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Sarah C Braddy, CDM Smith*

Date: December 21, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 21, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Sarah C Braddy, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly sunny with calm winds. Temperatures ranged from 43°F in the morning to 62°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain. No rain was observed today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, gathering and loading of soil and construction debris along the Southeast Channel, and loading of construction debris near the Tide Gates. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area.

6:20 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. It is still too dark to identify accurately, but 2 wading birds are seen along with 4-6 ducks of some kind near the center of the Basin.

6:40 am. As the sun begins to rise, bird identification becomes easier; 12-14 surface feeding ducks are present. A mix of Mallards, American Widgeons, and Gadwalls. 2 Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead.

A juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron is perched on the north side spillway. Anna's Hummingbirds are heard but not seen in the pines by the South side fence line. A Double-Crested Cormorant flies from South to North over the Basin and does not land.

6:55 am. Biological monitor gives the daily wildlife briefing focusing on wildlife seen last week as well as general site cleanliness and overall wildlife awareness. Last week, Monarch butterflies were seen as well as numerous ducks, songbirds, and hummingbirds.

7:30 am. From the North side of the spillway, a male Lesser Scaup joins the group of surface feeding ducks in the center of the Basin. It is too wet to work in the Basin so construction efforts are focused around the periphery. A survey team is at the North end and crews are fixing fences and cleaning up the site.

8:15 am. A lot of soil is being hauled in in preparation for planting at the North gate. The group of surface feeding ducks continues to be active. Anna's Hummingbirds are seen but not heard.

8:35 am. A Black Phoebe feeds by the construction trailer. A Western Gull flies overhead but does not land. A pair of Ring-billed Gulls, one adult, one juvenile, are feeding in the shallows on the South side. Anna's Hummingbirds are heard but not seen in the pines on the South side fence line. The levee gates need to be worked on but are under 3 feet of water. Crew members are formulating a plan to fix it. Water is being pumped from the boat ramp area to the north side spillway so crews can work on the boat ramp and remove the concrete barriers. A group of American Crows flies by, the surface feeding ducks are still in the area, a Black Phoebe and a female Yellow-rumped Warbler are feeding near the boat ramp.

9:00 am. A female Yellow-rumped Warbler is feeding near the East side boat ramp, a Say's Phoebe is perched on the stake, Black Phoebes are heard but not seen. A turtle is seen just below the surface of the water near the boat ramp but the glare from the sun makes it difficult to be more specific.

9:45 am. Earth moving and grating continues. Pipes are being buried along the wall by the construction trailer. A Ring-billed Gull flies over but does not land.

10:15 am. A pair of Peregrine Falcons is observed perched on one of the high rises together, plucking its kill. A Say's Phoebe is perching and feeding on the boat ramp silt fences. A Black Phoebe and a Say's Phoebe are fighting over food territories. A female Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the silt fence.

10:45 am. Plants are being delivered and staged at the North side gate area. The Peregrines are still eating. The surface feeding ducks are asleep. A female Yellow-rumped Warbler is feeding by the North side spillway.

11:00 am. A Monarch butterfly flies by the North side spillway. A Black Phoebe is feeding. The Peregrines are seen flying to a new perch with a new kill. Two Ring-billed Gulls fly by without stopping. Grading continues as does the efforts to clear the water from the levees.

11:15 am. The Mallards have left the group of surface feeding ducks. A Black Phoebe is feeding by the powerlines at the construction trailer. Another Black Phoebe is feeding by the north side spillway. A Ring-billed Gull flies overhead without stopping, and a Say's Phoebe is feeding outside the construction trailer window.

11:30 am. Construction crews break for lunch.

12:15 pm. Construction resumes. Yellow Throated Grey Warbler is picking his way through the grape vines outside the construction trailer. More loads of gravel are being brought in.

12:45 pm. The barriers at the boat ramp have been removed and grading continues by hand. Black Phoebes in abundance. Now that the Peregrine Falcons have been away the Pigeons are back in force, perching on the high rise apartments. A Monarch butterfly disappears into the Mesquite near the bike trail at the East side. Black and Say's Phoebes are very active on the South side, 7-8 of them, feeding and fighting. Numerous American Crows and Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead.

1:15 pm. Efforts are primarily focused on grading throughout the Basin. Trench digging around the perimeter for pipe laying begins. Black Phoebes are heard but not seen. The group of surface feeding ducks gets smaller as some leave throughout the day. Two Ring-billed Gulls fly by without stopping.

1:44 pm. Wildlife activity slows noticeably. The weather is overcast and the temperature is dropping. Storm clouds are present to the West. The surface feeding ducks are active again in the center of the Basin. A male Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler and a House Sparrow are seen in the grape vines near the construction trailer.

2:30 pm. The weather is increasingly overcast. Gravel dumping and grading continue. The surface feeding ducks are asleep again. Two Ring-billed Gulls fly by without stopping.

3:00 pm. Lots of new activity in and around the pines on the South side. There are lots of moths, and they have attracted the attention of hungry Black Throated Grey Warblers, Ruby Crowned Kinglets, Audubon and Myrtle's Yellow-rumped Warblers, Anna's Hummingbirds, and Black Phoebes. The Phoebes are aggressive in relation to the food territory and are somewhat successful at scaring away the other birds.

3:15 pm. Crows landing throughout the Basin. A Double-crested Cormorant and 3 Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead without landing. Construction crews begin covering the dirt in preparation for the rain that is forecasted for tomorrow.

3:45 pm. Work ends for the day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Few monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Monarch butterflies were observed today. The highest number observed was a total of two.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 21, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 21, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Black Throated Grey Warbler	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	Numerous individuals seen near South side pines
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Numberous individuals seen throughout the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual observed overhead
American Widgeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several pairs seen feeding in the center of the Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks

Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Pair seen feeding and perching on the high rise apartments
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	1 individual juvenile feeding adjacent the Bike Path at the east end of the project site with bushtits
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	1 individual seen feeding in the center of the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	Several pairs seen feeding in the center of the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	One pair seen feeding in the center of the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	2 individuals observed flying at the east end
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2 Individuals observed along the Bike Path



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Sarah C Braddy, CDM Smith

Date: December 22, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 22, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Sarah C Braddy, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were overcast and rainy, with calm winds. Temperatures ranged from 55°F in the morning to 62°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was rain. Rain was observed today. Crews were dismissed early due to weather and Basin conditions.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, gathering and loading of soil and construction debris along the Southeast Channel, and loading of construction debris near the Tide Gates. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:00 am. Biological monitor arrives onsite to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is not yet open, however, several crew members are present and waiting to come inside.

6:20 am. Biological monitor conducts initial survey assessment. It is still too dark to identify properly, but there are 12-15 ducks in the center of the Basin. Most likely it is a group similar to the one from yesterday. Two American crows and 1 Gull fly overhead without landing. The Basin has a lot of water and muddy conditions from the rain last night. Trash and debris are also in abundance after the wind and rain.

7:00 am. Bio awareness training complete with focus on safety and waterfowl. Two Double-Crested Cormorants fly by. One Great Egret flies over the Basin without stopping and lots of Gulls fly overhead.

7:30 am. A small crew is waiting to see if they will be able to work at all due to the rain. An immature black capped night heron is foraging near the levee gates. Black Phoebe are perched near the construction trailer.

8:00 am. Top soil being brought in and staged in the parking lot. Plants being unloaded near the construction trailer. Black Phoebe, numerous Gulls and Crows mill about the parking lot and the surrounding area. A Double-Crested Cormorant dives in the water to forage and the Great Blue Heron moves closer to the water to forage.

9:00 am. Approximately twenty Gulls are fighting over some food and trash in the parking lot. A male Yellow-Rumped Warbler is perched on the fence line on the North side. Mallards join the group of surface feeding ducks and Anna's Hummingbirds are heard but not seen in the mesquite trees off of the bike path.

9:30 am. Anna's Hummingbirds are heard but not seen on the South side in the pines. No activity from any of the song birds seen yesterday in that area. The temperature is dropping and the wind is picking up. Many construction crew have already been dismissed for the day. Black Phoebe are flitting about the plants that were staged near the construction trailer.

11:00 am. Construction is down to a small crew putting together irrigation lines and building the outlines for the footers on the North side spillway. Black Phoebe feed near the construction trailer, the surface feeding ducks are asleep, numerous Gulls and Crows fly by.

11:30 am. Crews work through lunch. Black Phoebe perching by the trailer. A Great Egret flies over the Basin without stopping.

12:00 pm. The surface feeding ducks are asleep, 1 Peregrine Falcon is perched on the high rise building, Black Phoebe are feeding by the North spillway, Ring-Billed Gulls fly overhead.

12:30 pm. The wind has decreased and the crew is still working on the footers and the irrigation. A pump by the levee has quit working and they are trying to fix it.

1:15 pm. A Great Egret flies by. Black Phoebe perch and feed near the construction trailer in the plants that were staged there. A male Yellow-Rumped Warbler is feeding in the plants also. A Double-Crested Cormorant flies around and eventually lands in the Basin. He dives in search of food. More surface feeding ducks land in the Basin.

1:30 pm. The pump is up and running again. Crews are finishing up and cleaning up from building the footer outlines. Two Ring-Billed Gulls fly over the Basin.

2:30 pm. Crew at the North side footers is finished and packing up. Great Egret flies overhead.

Additional Observations

No Monarch butterflies, Say's Phoebes, Black Throated Grey Warblers, or Ruby Crowned Kinglets were observed today.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
4. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 22, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 22, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual observed overhead
American Widgeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several pairs seen feeding in the center of the Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Pair seen feeding and perching on the high rise apartments

Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	1 individual seen feeding in the center of the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	Several pairs seen feeding in the center of the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	One pair seen feeding in the center of the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Heard but not seen



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Sarah C Braddy, CDM Smith*

Date: December 23, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 23, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Sarah C Braddy, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly sunny with calm winds. Temperatures ranged from 55°F in the morning to 62°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain. No rain was observed today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, gathering and loading of soil and construction debris along the Southeast Channel, and loading of construction debris near the Tide Gates. Plants were unloaded and staged and the armor flex pads were placed on the boat ramp. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open, and several crew members are present and waiting in the staging area.

6:20 am. Biological monitor conducts initial survey assessment. Five to seven ducks are observed in the center of the Basin. Most likely it is a group similar to the one from yesterday. Gulls and a Double-Crested Cormorant fly overhead and Anna's Hummingbirds and Black Phoebes are heard but not seen near the mesquite trees on the East side. The water level in the Basin has dropped

significantly after a day of no rain.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training complete with focus on safety and waterfowl. A female Common Goldeneye in winter plumage lands in the Basin with the group of surface feeding ducks. Cutting begins on the North side spillway and the armor flex pads are being placed on the boat ramp.

7:30 am. A male American Coot, Mallards, Widgeons, and the Golden Eye are all feeding in the Basin. No Gadwalls yet today.

8:00 am. There are only 2 pairs of Widgeons and the one Coot left in the Basin, the others have flown off. Planting begins on the berm. A Black Phoebe is perched by the pines on the South side.

8:30 am. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler is in the plants by the construction trailer. More Widgeons join the group of surface feeding ducks and the Coot in the center of the Basin. The pair of Gadwalls is back.

9:30 am. The surface feeding ducks, Black Phoebe, and a Yellow-Rumped Warbler are observed feeding near the North side spillway. Six to eight Anna's Hummingbirds and a Say's Phoebe are feeding near the boat ramp. There are a lot of bees today.

10:15 am. Seven to ten Yellow-Rumped Warblers feeding near the mesquite trees on the Northeastern side, a Black Phoebe and a Say's Phoebe are perching and feeding from the silt fences in that area. There are still a notable amount of moths on site, attracting predators, and a male Townsend's Warbler is feeding as well.

10:45 am. Near the South side pines, Anna's Hummingbirds, a Yellow-Rumped Warbler, a Black Throated Grey Warbler, and a Ruby Crowned Kinglet are feeding on the moths and perching in the pines.

11:30 am. The surface feeding ducks and the Coot are still present. A monarch flies by the North side spillway, and crews break for lunch.

12:15 pm. Crews resume construction activities. The Black-Throated Grey Warbler is observed near the South side pines again, feeding with the Yellow-Rumped Warblers on the moths.

1:30 pm. A Black-Throated Grey Warbler, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, and Anna's Hummingbirds are feeding voraciously on the moths in the South side pines.

2:00 pm. One pair Gadwall, one pair Widgeon, one American Coot, and a Snowy Egret and feeding in the Basin. Crews continue to lay the armor flex pads on the boat ramp as well as planting on the berm. Crews also begin laying irrigation pipes.

2:30 pm. The Snowy Egret moves freely throughout the Basin foraging. Black Phoebe are heard but not seen, and 6 more Widgeons land in the Basin.

3:30 pm. Crews completed work for the day.

Additional Observations

Only one Monarch butterfly was seen today. But Say's Phoebes, Black-Throated Grey Warblers, and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets were observed feeding today. A Snowy Egret was observed towards the end of the day.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
4. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 23, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 23, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual observed overhead
American Widgeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several pairs seen feeding in the center of the Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual seen in the Basin late in the day

American Coot	<i>Fulica Americana</i>	One individual seen today feeding with the surface feeding ducks
Gadwall	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	Several pairs seen feeding in the center of the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Several individuals seen feeding on moths
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Numerous individuals seen feeding on the moths
Black-Throated Grey Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>	Observed feeding
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Observed feeding



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Rico Ramirez, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Date: December 24, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin
Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 24, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Rico Ramirez, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:45 am and ending at 12:00p.m. Weather conditions during the day were partly cloudy, with temperatures ranging from 46°F in the morning to a high of 65°F. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with installing irrigation systems, planting in the circulation berm, and grading of soil near the Southwestern and Northeastern edges of the Basin. All crews were overseen by the LA County Inspector of Record and the Stormwater Pollution Inspector.

Biologist's Field Log

6:45 am. The SWCA biological monitor arrived onsite.

7:00 am. SWCA biologist Rico Ramirez gave the bio-awareness training and had all crew members sign in for training attendance.

7:15 am. The crew mobilized and began to work. Two American Coots were observed in the Northeastern portion of the Basin.

7:35 am. Two members of the crew worked near the wall at the Southwestern portion of the Basin. One bulldozer moved dirt from the laydown yard into the Basin. The two American Coots were still in the water in the Northeastern portion of the Basin.

Mr. Rick Sun
December 24, 2015
Page 2

7:55 am One Bulldozer continued to move dirt from the laydown yard into the Basin. Two Mallards entered the Basin and were foraging for food in the water. One Black phoebe was observed foraging for food at the edge of the fence line near the southern portion of the Basin.

8:20 am. Three bulldozers were operating; two were moving dirt from the laydown yard into the Basin while the last bulldozer was grading the soil.

8:21 am. One snowy egret lands in the water near the circulation berm. The snowy egret was not harmed or bothered by the machinery. It began to forage near the storm drain at the northeastern portion of the Basin.

8:38 am. Two crew members began to plant in the berm in the center of the Basin. The other crew members began to water down the dirt piles to keep the dust down.

8:58 am. Six Eurasian Wigeons landed in the water and began to forage for food.

9:20 am. Three crew members began to lay down PVC pipes for the irrigation system on the berms near the telephone poles in the northwestern portion of the Basin.

9:40 am. The crew continued to move dirt from the laydown yard into the Basin. They also continued to avoid spilling dirt into the water.

10:00 am. No new birds entered the site, the crew continued to follow proper Best Management Practices (BMPs).

10:20 am. A Snowy Egret left the site. Three crew members continued to install the irrigation system, while the other crew members maneuvered dirt in the western portion of the site. Two crew members also turned on the water pump.

10:40 am. One crew member turned off the pump to repair a gasket. The crew continued to install the irrigation lines. Two American crows were observed flying over the site.

11:00 am. The pipe from the pump continued to be repaired. No new birds entered the site.

11:30 am. A pair of yellow-rumped warblers flew into the southern portion of the Basin and began to forage for food.

12:00 pm. The crew stopped working, cleared any debris left on the site, and parked their vehicles/equipment.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and

around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife has avoided foraging inside Basin entirely, due to soil grading, planting and irrigation installation.

2. Wildlife levels were low throughout the day.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 24th, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals observed foraging on northeast bank, very common; observed flying overhead
American Coots	<i>Fulica americana</i>	2 individuals observed swimming
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 individual observed foraging on the western bank
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	6 individuals observed swimming
Mallards	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals observed swimming
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed landing in stormwater inlet.
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	2 individuals observed at the southern portion of the site.
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead



Photo 1. Two crewmembers installing the irrigation system.



Photo 2. Two crewmembers planting the native vegetation on the circulation berm.



Photo 3. A bulldozer and a crewmember are grading the soil near the western portion of the site.



Memorandum

To: *Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

From: *Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith*
John R. Ivanov, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Date: *Saturday, December 26, 2015*

Subject: *Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 26, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Mr. John R. Ivanov, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:30 am and ending at 3:45p.m. Weather conditions were clear skies and mild winds throughout the day, with temperatures ranging from ~48°F in the morning to ~68°F in the afternoon. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with installing the irrigation system (Figure 1), planting and building the rock cage along the walls of the Diversion wall (Figure 2), building forms for a planter, seating, walkway, and bike path (Figure 3). All crews were overseen by the LA County Inspector of Record and the Stormwater Pollution Inspector.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

The Biological monitor arrived on site at 6:30am and looked for wildlife within the Basin prior to sunrise. No wildlife was observed within the project area prior to sunrise.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gave the bio-awareness training to three crews totaling 16 workers. Crews present that day were from C.S. Legacy, CMB, and Griffin Construction. Wildlife observed at this time included Western Gulls, California Gull, Double-crested cormorants, and an America Crow.

Mr. Rick Sun
December 26, 2015
Page 2

7:26 am. The crews prepared to work at three site locations. Minor digging with a pick began with the purpose of extending the irrigation system at the Northwest corner of project site near Washington Boulevard. A trencher and a soil compacter fitted with a sheepsfoot drum were staged for work at the same location.

7:48 am. CMB began using hand tools and a backhoe to build a planter with seating and a walking and biking path at the North edge of project area where Washington Boulevard meets Mildred Avenue.

8:08 am. The C.S. Legacy crew installed rocks into rock cages and planted 4" potted plants along the walls of the Diversion Berm. Plants included Pickleweed, Saltgrass, and Spurge.

8:38 am. Species of birds observed included a Yellow-rumped warbler feeding within project site, a Western Gull, a Rock Pigeon, and an America Crow flying overhead.

8:58 am. Five Western Gulls, three Rock Pigeons, one Ring-billed Gull, and one American Crow were observed flying overhead.

9:17 am. The biologist began a perimeter walk of project site. Hedge nettle (species unknown) was observed south of the pump station along Admiralty Way.

9:35 am. Light winds from the southeast began to pick up. Carnation sage (*Euphorbia terricina*), an invasive plant, was observed within the project site near Admiralty Way. Dog foot prints were observed near water's edge.

9:50 am. Wildlife observed included many California Horn Snail, three Monarch Butterflies in a Eucalyptus grove, numerous Mosquito Fish, and five California Gulls flying overhead.

10:10 am. CMB used a back hoe and hand tools to install plywood forms and rebar for cement work. CS Legacy continued planting along Diversion Berm. Footprints of a small Heron and Raccoon were observed on the north side of project area. Wildlife observed included one Monarch Butterfly, more California Horn Snails, two Yellow-rumped Warblers, twenty Rock Pigeons flying overhead, two California Gulls, one Black Phoebe, and a Killdeer feeding in the middle of the Basin.

10:29 am. Irrigation pipe installation using trencher and hand tools continued.

10:53 am. One Dark-eyed Junco, three Yellow-rumped warblers, and an Allen's Hummingbird were observed utilizing the site. Other species of birds observed included a Western Gull, two Rock Pigeons, and an unknown Gull observed flying overhead.

11:11 am. Weather at this time included light wind from the East, a temperature of 68°F. Two Adult Red-tailed Hawks were observed flying high overhead.

11:20 am. Crews began breaking up for lunch.

12:14 pm. Crews began coming back from lunch.

12:44 pm. CS Legacy continued planting on Diversion Berm. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers, one House Finch, one Western Gull, and a Rock Pigeon were observed.

1:10 pm. The crew was using a trencher for irrigation extension along North West side of project. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers, one Say's Phoebe, three Western Gulls, two American Crows, and six Rock Pigeons were observed.

1:35 pm. CMB continued using hand tools and a back hoe near Mildred Ave and Washington Boulevard. One Yellow-rumped Warbler, one Black Phoebe, an American Crows, and five Rock Pigeons were observed.

1:54 pm. A Slight increase of mild winds from the South began. Four Yellow-rumped Warblers, two Black Phoebes, one American Crow, eleven Rock Pigeons, one Dark-eyed Junco, one adult Red-tailed Hawk, one Western Gull, twenty California Gulls, and an unknown passerine were observed.

2:27 pm. The crews began dousing and removing dirt and dust from the parking area. Ten Killdeers landed in center of Basin.

2:49 pm. A straw wattle was put around the dirt mounds in parking lot. An American Crow, a Black Phoebe, a Western Gull, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler were noted.

3:13pm. Safety fencing was installed around the work sites. A Yellow-rumped Warbler and Say's Phoebe were noted.

3:35 pm. Crews completed work for the day.

Additional Observations

No wildlife was observed at the project site prior to sunrise.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife has avoided foraging inside Basin entirely, due to soil dredging and drilling de-watering wells.
2. Wildlife levels were low throughout the day.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 26, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 26, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Double-crested cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Regular flyover
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Not utilizing the site
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Regular flyovers during winter
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californica</i>	Regular flyovers during winter
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	In surrounding city
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Regular flyovers
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	33 individuals observed foraging on northeast bank, very common; observed flying overhead
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Resident in small numbers
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Resident in small numbers
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Resident in small numbers
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Winter visitor
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Winter visitor
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Winter visitor
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Common Resident



Figure 1. Photo facing north at the northwest corner of project site of crew installing the irrigation system.



Figure 2. Photo facing southwest of C.S. Legacy crew planting and building the rock cage along the Diversion wall.



Figure 3. Photo facing west of CMB crew building forms for a planter, seating, walkway, and bike path.